



Borough of Haslingden



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending
31st December, 1939

Haslingden Printing Works Ltd.

Borough of Haslingden.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending
31st December, 1939.

Members of the Health & Sanitary Committee

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ex-officio),
COUNCILLOR J. KIRBY.

Councillor T. BROWN, Chairman of the Health Committee.

ALDERMEN:

A. E. BUTTERWORTH.

L. GREENWOOD, J.P.

COUNCILLORS:

F. BRANDWOOD.

W. BOYSON.

J. DEARDEN.

F. SLATER.

T. HARROP

(Vice-Chairman)

T. B. HARGREAVES.

P. McINTYRE.

W. F. THACKER.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

§ K. K. WOOD, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Laryngologist and Ophthalmic Surgeon:

* P. A. HARRY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Consultant under Public Health (Puerperal Fever
and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926:

* W. M. MARTIN, M.C., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.O.G.

Dental Surgeon:

* J. D. TURNER, L.D.S.

Veterinary Surgeon (as required):

* H. B. ALLEN, M.R.C.V.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector:

T. E. AMOS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector (additional):

K. A. J. H. BARTON (Appointed May, 1939).

Public Health Clerks:

JOHN T. WOOD.

JOHN EASTWOOD.

Health Visitors:

† MISS A. WHITELEY.

† MISS E. S. FRANKS
(Resigned 16th June, 1939).

† MISS MARY JONES (Temporarily appointed 1st Sept., 1939).

SECONDED FROM SALFORD:

Assistant Medical Officer of Health:

* H. HEATHCOTE, M.D., D.P.H. (from 10/10/39).

Dental Surgeon:

* MISS M. G. McLEOD, L.D.S. (from 12/10/39).

Dental Attendant:

* MISS MARJORIE GRUNDY (from 12/10/39).

School Nurse:

* MISS GWEN WILLIAMS (from 1/9/39).

* Part Time.

† Also acts as School Nurse.

§ Full Time with Borough of Rawtenstall.

Annual Report for 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

War conditions have necessitated curtailment of the report and have been responsible for its delay.

War conditions have not made any appreciable difference to the Health of the people of Haslingden during the year. They have curtailed certain activities of the Health department, whilst increasing others.

Air Raid Precautions have kept all members of the department unusually busy both by day and night. For the willing support from the whole of the staff I wish to tender my thanks.

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee, I wish to express my thanks for the continued help that has been given.

I am,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

K. Knizer Wood.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Offices,
Blackburn Road,
Haslingden.

SECTION A—Vital Statistics.

Area (in acres)	8,195
Population (Census, 1931)	16,639
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1939	15,050
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931)	4,856
„ „ „ (End of 1939, according to Rate Books)	5,145
Rateable Value	£85,810
Sum represented by a penny rate	£330

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate ...	140	73	67
	Illegitimate ...	2	2	...
	Total... ..	142	75	67

	Total	Male	Female
Still Births	4	2	2

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	231	114	117

	Live Birth Rate.
England and Wales	15.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.8
148 Smaller Towns (Resident population of 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	15.6
London Administrative County	12.3

TABLE 1.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1939.
AND THEIR VARIATION OVER 5 YEARS.

Causes of Death.	Year				
	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935
ALL CAUSES.	231	238	238	241	223
Measles ... ..	...	...		2	...
Scarlet fever... ..	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	1	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	1	1	1
Influenza	6	2	14	4	12
Encephalitis lethargica... ..	1	..	1	1	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	2	2	11	4
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
General paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis ... ..	..	..	1	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	27	32	20	26	22
Diabetes	3	5	...	3	9
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	8	7	15	14	15
Heart disease	82	90	77	80	77
Aneurysm... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Other circulatory diseases	17	18	19	17	15
Bronchitis	8	8	9	6	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	6	15	7	7
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	5	4	...
Peptic ulcer	2	1	3	2	2
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ..	1	3	...	1	...
Appendicitis	2	1	...	2	1
Cirrhosis of liver, etc. ... ..	...	1	...	...	...
Other diseases of liver	3	...	1	4	3
Other digestive diseases	4	2	2	...	6
Acute and chronic nephritis	12	14	15	8	9
Puerperal sepsis... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Other puerperal causes		1	...	...	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. ...	5	7	7	9	9
Senility	9	13	11	18	12
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	3	3
Other violence	8	10	7	6	5
Other defined causes	20	13	11	18	22
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...	1	...	...	...

TABLE II.
AGES AT DEATH DURING 1939.

Age	Number of Deaths	Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1	7	51-55	12
1-5	2	56-60	28
21-25	4	61-65	25
26-30	1	66-70	29
31-35	3	71-75	43
36-40	4	76-80	33
41-45	4	81-85	22
46-50	9	86-90	5

Infantile Mortality.

During 1939, 7 children died under the age of one year. The infantile mortality Rate (i.e. number of deaths under one year per 1000 live births) of

England and Wales	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	53
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	40
London Administrative County	48

The causes of infantile deaths during 1939 were as follows:—

Bronchitis	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	5
Other defined causes	1

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

Staff.

A list of the staff is given at the commencement of this report.

Laboratory Facilities.

There have been no changes in the laboratory facilities available as described in last year's report.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Bury and District Joint Hospital Board Motor Ambulance is used for the conveyance to hospital of cases of infectious disease, the Local Authority paying the cost of removal. Non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are conveyed to hospital by the Haslingden Corporation Motor Ambulance, which is also used for the conveyance of cases to and from Greenfield Massage and X-Ray Centre when necessary. During the year ending 31st March, 1940, the Haslingden Corporation Motor Ambulance removed 880 cases and travelled 13,534 miles.

The facilities available are adequate for the requirements of the Area. Reciprocal arrangements are made with Rawtenstall Borough for the use of ambulances in the case of a breakdown.

Nursing Homes.

The Services as described in the 1938 report have been available.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare.

This centre meets weekly, on Tuesday afternoons in the Clinic, Manchester Road.

(b) School Clinic.

A daily (9-30 a.m.) Minor Ailment treatment clinic is held for School children. A weekly inspection clinic is held (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.)

(c) Orthopædic Clinic.

Children suffering from orthopædic defects are referred to the Orthopædic Clinic at Rawtenstall, which is

held each Wednesday morning. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

(d) Actinotherapy Clinic.

Facilities for artificial light treatment are provided at Greenfield Massage and X-Ray Centre of the Lancashire County Council, where treatment can be carried out on the recommendation of the Medical Practitioner concerned with the case. The Local Authority makes no separate provision for this treatment.

(e) Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The Lancashire County Council have provided a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Accrington, where cases are referred to be seen by the Area Tuberculosis Officer. Radiographic facilities are available there, and the Tuberculosis Officer works in close co-operation with the Medical Practitioners in the Area. The Tuberculosis Dispensary is open for consultations and treatment on Tuesday and Wednesday each week at 2 p.m.

Hospitals.

(a) Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided at the Florence Nightingale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bury. This is the hospital of the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, with which this Authority has an agreement. Cases are admitted on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Non-infectious Disease.

Hospital accommodation is available for general medical, surgical and other non-infectious cases at the voluntary hospitals in Manchester, Bury, Blackburn and Accrington. The Local Authority does not contribute to any of the hospitals, but grants are made from a local Workpeople's Hospital Fund.

(c) Maternity Cases.

Hospital accommodation is provided for maternity cases at the Moorlands Maternity Home, Rawtenstall, at the Maternity Department of Bury Infirmary and at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

The following are figures relative to the maternity cases from the Borough of Haslingden, for 1939, which were admitted to Moorlands Maternity Home:—

Cases admitted to Moorlands Maternity Home from Haslingden during 1939	42
Number delivered by Doctors	4
Number delivered by Midwives	38
	—
Total	42
Live Births	42
Still Births	—
Died during the first four weeks	1

(d) Greenfield Massage and X-Ray Centre.

There have been no changes in the arrangements as described in last year's report.

(e) Girls' Home, Pike Law.

This is a branch of the Moorlands Public Assistance Institution, homeless and destitute children being admitted temporarily, until other accommodation is found for them elsewhere. The ages of children admitted are, boys under 5 years and girls up to 14 years old. Children of school age attend Haslingden Schools. This home was closed for such purposes in June 1939.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

During 1939, notification was received in respect of 148 live births and 3 still births, 135 being notified by midwives, and 16 by Medical Practitioners.

Of these, 43 occurred in Moorlands Infirmary, Rawtenstall, and 19 in other Hospitals and Nursing Homes outside the District. In the remaining 89 cases the mothers were confined in their own homes.

Midwives.

Two midwives practise in the Area.

Health Visiting.

Two lady Health Visitors, who also act as School Nurses, are employed by the Council. All newly born children are visited, the first visit being made to coincide with the

final visit of the Midwife, except in cases where special treatment is required, when the Health Visitors attend as soon as they are required.

All healthy children are ultimately referred to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and it is recommended that they be seen periodically here until they commence school life. In all cases where circumstances require it, the Health Visitors visit the children at home.

During the year the following number of visits were paid:—

(a) To children under one year of age:

First Visits	152
Total Visits	439

(b) To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years:

Total Visits	871
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Infant Welfare Centre.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic met weekly, on Tuesday afternoons in the School Clinic, Manchester Road.

Advice is given to mothers by the Medical Officer of Health on such matters as clothing and feeding, but cases requiring treatment are referred to their own doctors.

The following attendances were recorded during the year:

(a) Total number of attendances at the Centre during the year:

(i) By children under one year of age ... 1844

(ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years ... 2795

(b) Total number of children who first attended the Centre during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were:

(i) Under one year of age ... 118

(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years ... 45

- (c) Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centre during the year, and who, at the end of the year, were :
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| (i) Under one year of age | 74 |
| (ii) Over one year of age | 270 |

The above figures show an increase in attendances on last year. No Infant Welfare Centres are provided or maintained by Voluntary Associations.

Ante-Natal Centre.

The Lancashire County Council have established an Ante-Natal Clinic at Moorlands for cases to be admitted there for confinement.

Number of expectant mothers who are resident in Haslingden, who have attended the Moorlands Ante-Natal Clinic during 1939	62
Total number of attendances made by the above ...	309

Maternity Homes and Hospitals.

There are no Maternity Homes or Hospitals situate within the Borough of Haslingden, but expectant mothers are admitted to Moorlands Infirmary, Rawtenstall, whilst other cases, chiefly of an abnormal nature go to the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, or the Bury Infirmary.

Supply of Food and Milk.

Where necessary, food and milk are supplied to expectant and nursing mothers and to infants under one year, on recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health. 644 gallons of liquid milk and 364 lbs. of dried milk were supplied during 1939. There has been no change in the scale of income for the supply of free milk.

Children and Young Persons Act.

The provisions of the Act are advertised from time to time, and the Health Visitors visit any cases that may be on the register.

Illegitimate Infants and Unmarried Mothers.

There is no institutional provision in the Area for illegitimate infants or unmarried mothers.

Maternal Mortality.

On receipt of notification each maternal death is reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, who makes the usual investigation and reports thereon to the Ministry of Health.

Puerperal Pyrexia:

Under the Public Health (Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1939, arrangements have been made by the Local Authority for the provision of the services of a Consultant, for the necessary bacteriological examinations and for the provision of hospital treatment, where these are asked for by the Medical Practitioner notifying the case. Nurses for such cases are not provided by the Council.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was received during the year. Particulars of this case are given in the following Table.

TABLE III.
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			Vision Un- impaired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1	...	1	1	...	...	...

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Orthopaedic defects are referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic situated at 6 Kay Street, Rawtenstall. The Clinic is held every Wednesday, the Orthopaedic Surgeon attending once monthly on the fourth Wednesday. Hospital treatment is available, where necessary, at Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital or the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Under this scheme children from Elementary schools and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre are dealt with, but as the work with regard to the former is reported upon in the School Medical Report, particulars here regarding children under school age only, are given.

During 1939, 9 Haslingden children and one Salford child in this category were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic and the total number of attendances by these children was 29, of which 11 were at the ordinary clinic and 18 when the Surgeon was in attendance.

One child, under school age, received institutional treatment during the year.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Medical Examinations for Superannuation	2
Examination of Auxiliary Firemen	38

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances.

Water.

The water supply of Haslingden is obtained mainly from the Irwell Valley Water Board, partly from the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board and partly from springs and wells. Of the 5,145 inhabited houses on the rate book at the end of 1939, 4,454 or 86.6% are supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board, 153 or 2.9% by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board, and the remaining 538 houses, or 10.5% of the total, obtain their supply from springs and wells. All the water supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board and by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board is delivered direct to the consumer, neither of these authorities delivering water by stand pipes.

Of the 5,145 houses in the Area, only 1,800 or 34.9% are supplied with baths.

One sample of water was submitted, from the Public Baths, for bacteriological examination, and the result was satisfactory.

Five samples of well water, of private supplies, were examined during the year, two for bacteriological examination and 3 for chemical examination.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage disposal works are under the control of a Joint Board and the method of treatment is precipitation and filtration.

There are still numbers of houses not connected to public sewers, but these are mostly outlying districts and farms.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Five pail closets were abolished during 1939, but there are still 204 pail closets in use.

The figures below show the closet accommodation of the Borough at the end of 1939:—

Privy middens: No. of middens—8

No. of closets attached to these

middens—8

No. of pail closets—204.
 No. of fresh-water closets—2143.
 No. of waste-water closets—2347.
 No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)—8.
 No. of moveable ashbins—4853.

Public Cleansing.

At the beginning of the year there were 8 fixed ashpits in use. With the exception of these, all the Borough is now using portable galvanized iron ashbins which are emptied by one of the two refuse collection wagons employed by the Council.

The two refuse collection wagons have dealt with the following material:—

	No. of loads.
Ashbin refuse	2763
Ashpit refuse	19
Market refuse	102
Other material	8
	<hr/>
Total	2892
	<hr/>

In addition to the above, the two refuse wagons have collected all bedding for disinfection and destruction. Three loads of refuse from privies and ashpits and three loads from cesspools were removed by horse vehicle.

The whole of the town's refuse has been disposed of on the Controlled Tip at St. Peter's Avenue. The total amount of refuse and other material dealt with on this tip during the year is shown below:—

	No. of loads.
Loads tipped by refuse collection wagons	2884
Street sweepings, excavations, etc. from the Borough Surveyor's Department... ..	483
Loads tipped by private traders, con- tractors, etc.	662
	<hr/>
Total	4029
	<hr/>

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Details of the inspection work carried out during 1939 are shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV.

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Inspections under the Housing Acts	456
Clearance Areas	116
Public Health Acts	77
Meat and Food Inspections:—	
Slaughter-houses	460
Butchers' shops	139
Other food preparing places ..	285
Market	179
Farms	149
Merchandise Marks Acts... ..	41
Public Health (Meat) Regulations	59
Milk Samples ..	47
Common lodging-houses	94
Infectious diseases and disinfections	122
Factory and workshop inspections	100
Ashes receptacles	274
Shops Acts Inspections	283
Drains and Water closets	66
Offensive trades	20
Places of public entertainment	7
Water supply	12
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act ..	21
Work in progress ..	80
Work completed	44
Smoke observations	17
Common yards, passages, etc.	375
Interviews	798
Military billets... ..	5
Other miscellaneous visits	291
	<hr/>
	4617
	<hr/>

In Table V are given particulars of:—

Defects and nuisances found and remedied.

TABLE V.

Nuisances and Defects.

	Discovered	Remedied
Dwelling-houses :		
Lighting and Ventilation	505	—
Food Store	155	—
Washing accommodation ...	102	—
Dampness	130	—
Absence of handrail	142	—
Water supply and taps	2	—
Yard paving	114	1
Absence of drainage	2	—
Insufficient ashbins	114	—
Defective ashbins	65	187
Insanitary closet	8	—
Insufficient closet	117	—
Defective fresh-water closet ...	10	1
Defective waste-water closet..	36	10
Defective drains	100	6
Chimneys	78	—
Roofs	134	1
Eaves-gutters	45	3
Rain-water pipes	57	—
Fractured external wall	66	—
Pointing	248	—
Overcrowding	1	—
Fractured internal wall	27	1
Filthy premises	1	1
Defective plaster	621	—
Ceiling not underdrawn	62	—
Defective sink and sink-		
waste pipe	136	—
,, fire-ranges	228	—
,, stairs	68	—
,, windows	372	—
,, doors, frames	131	—
,, floors	417	—
Absence of damp-proof course	25	—
Offensive accumulations	2	3
Bakehouses	5	—
Factories and Workshops :		
Nuisances	6	—
Others	308	—
Totals... ..	4640	214

Smoke Abatement.

Seventeen half-hourly observations were taken of mill chimneys and in four of these the emission of smoke exceeded the time limit of two minutes per half hour. Black smoke was emitted for a total of $24\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, an average of 6.1 minutes per observation.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Corporation Swimming Baths provide one plunge bath, six slipper baths and two medical (Zotofoam) Baths.

The water in the plunge bath is treated by filtration, chlorination and aeration under pressure, and is chemically treated by sulphate of alumina and soda. The water is tested three times daily for pH value, for residual chlorine and for temperature. The pool capacity is approximately 76,000 gallons, and there is a complete turnover of the water each $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

One sample of bath water was subject to bacteriological analysis during the year, which gave a satisfactory result.

All the school children in the Borough attend for swimming instructions throughout the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

To ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before their removal to a Council house all furniture and effects are fumigated with sulphur dioxide prior to removal, this work being carried out by officers of the Local Authority.

Clothing infested with vermin may be disinfected at the steam disinfecter.

Offensive Trades.

The number of offensive trades within the Borough is two, viz:- a soap works and a tripe boiler. These premises receive periodic inspections.

Factory Act, 1937:

One hundred visits have been paid to workplaces, etc.,
The following is a list of the workshops in the Borough:—

Bakers and Confectioners	38
Boot and Shoe Repairers	12
Dressmakers and Milliners	10
Joiners and Cabinet Makers	3
Tailors	3
Blacksmiths	4
Printers	2
Saddler	1
Plumbers and Electricians	6
Tinsmiths	4
Garage Repairs	2

There are also sixty-three factories in the Borough with mechanised power.

Common Lodging-Houses, etc.

There are Four common lodging-houses registered in the Borough, all of which are situated in Town Ward.

In addition to the above, there is one house let in lodgings which is periodically visited to see that the Bye-Laws are being observed.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the town where rag flock is manufactured, and so far as is known none is being sold or used.

Camp Sites.

There have been no licences issued by the Local Authority and no areas were used for camping purposes.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is dealt with in the School Medical Report. All schools are supplied with water from the Town's supplies. No schools were closed during the year on account of infectious disease.

SECTION D.—Housing.

(a) Housing Conditions.

Most of the houses in the Borough are stone built of the through 3-bedroom type. In previous Annual Reports it has been noted that repairs and alterations to many houses in the area were necessary to bring them up to any modern standard of housing.

(b) Slum Clearance.

Details of the progress made under the Housing programme in response to Circular 1331 and the position at the end of 1939 are shown below :-

Official Representations Made and Accepted :

(a) Prior to 1939... ..	12	(12 Areas—218 houses)
(b) During 1939	Nil.	Nil.
<hr/>		
Total	12	(12 Areas—218 houses)
<hr/>		

Clearance Orders Confirmed :

(a) Prior to 1939	12	(12 Areas—218 houses)
(b) During 1939	Nil.	Nil.
<hr/>		
Total	12	(12 Areas—218 houses)
<hr/>		

Houses Demolished :

(a) Prior to 1939	118	(383 persons displaced)
(b) During 1939	51	(153 persons displaced)
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Total	169	(536 persons displaced)
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New Houses Erected to Re-house Displaced Persons :

(a) Prior to 1939	176*
(b) During 1939... ..	28†
<hr/>	
Total	204
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*Including 14 houses to re-house persons displaced from individual unfit houses.

†Including 3 houses to re-house persons displaced from individual unfit houses

In addition to the above, 3 insanitary houses were demolished and 13 dwellings were closed as a result of formal action under the Housing Acts.

Many houses are built into the hillside and so become "back-to-earth" houses. There are some 94 of these houses. In addition to these, there are some 250 back-to-back houses in the Borough.

(c) Reconditioning Insanitary Property.

Under the Housing Act 1936, six houses were reconditioned as the result of informal notices served prior to 1939.

(d) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the Year:—

(a) Total [including numbers given separately under (b)]...	57
(i) By the Local Authority ...	28
(ii) By other Local Authorities...	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons ...	29
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(i) By the Local Authority ...	28
(ii) By other bodies or persons ...	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	204
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	649
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) ..	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	172
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	32

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without
Service of formal notice—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit
in consequence of informal action by the Local
Authority or their officers 6

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the
Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were ren-
dered fit after service of formal notice:—
- (a) By owners Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring defects to be
remedied 194
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects
were remedied after service of formal notice:—
- (a) By owners Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the
Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur-
suance of Demolition Orders... .. 1

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing
Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were
made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were
determined, the tenement or room having been
rendered fit... .. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	8
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	8
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	46
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	13
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	75
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

The number of cowkeepers on the register at the end of the year was 66, all of whom have their premises registered as dairy farms. In the majority of these cases the milk is sold by retail, either from the open kit or in bottles.

During 1939, 149 inspections of farms were made.

In addition to the farms enumerated above, there are 47 dairymen and retail purveyors of milk on the register, other than cowkeepers. Most of these are tradesmen, who sell milk in bottles and whose premises are periodically visited and inspected.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1923 and 1936.

One farm in the Borough produces Tuberculin Tested milk and two farms Accredited milk. Two dealer's licences with regard to the retail distribution of Pasteurised milk are issued by this Local Authority.

Examination of Milk Supplies.

Table VI. gives particulars of the Bacteriological examination of milk during 1939.

TABLE VI.
BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK DURING 1939.

Particulars of Examination	No. of Samples					No. of Farms
	Total	Negative	Positive	Satisfactory	Not-Satisfactory	
Bacillus Coli	19	—	—	11	8	44
Methylene Blue Test	19	—	—	13	6	
Biological for Tuberculosis	44	41	3	—	—	

Slaughter-Houses.

There are 10 privately owned licensed slaughter-houses which are regularly visited and inspected.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

At the end of the year 46 licences to slaughter animals were in operation.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Visits are paid periodically to shops and all premises where foodstuffs are stored or are in the course of preparation. The Market is visited each Market Day, i.e., Tuesday and Saturday. The number of visits paid for the purpose of meat and food inspection during the year was 1312 and was made up as follows:—

Slaughter-houses	460
Butchers' shops	139
Other food preparing places... ..	285
Market	179
Farms	149
Merchandise Marks Act	41
Public Health (Meat) Regulations	59
	<hr/>
	1312
	<hr/>

The number of animals inspected was 4008, made up as follows:—

Bullocks	309
Cows	5
Heifers	176
Calves	18
Sheep and Lambs	3178
Pigs	322
	<hr/>
	4008
	<hr/>

Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934.

No action was taken under these Regulations during 1939. Cockles and mussels retailed in the area are purchased wholesale at Blackburn and are believed to be from layings at Conway and Lytham.

Bakehouses.

There are 38 bakehouses on the register, most of them being all small confectionery businesses, where baking is done in the living-room. There are still a few underground bakehouses on the register.

Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food.

The administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and other Food Orders and Regulations, is under the control of the Lancashire County Council in this area, the police taking the required samples.

SECTION F.—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

TABLE VII.
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1939.

“Notifiable” Diseases	Total Cases Notified													Total Deaths	Hospital	
	Total Cases at all Ages	Years													Total cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Un-der 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Acute primary and acute influenza pneumonia	16	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	4	2	2	7	1	...
Diphtheria	7	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet fever	19	...	1	...	...	2	10	6	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
Totals	46	4	2	2	...	4	10	8	1	5	5	3	7	16	...	

General Observations.

Forty-six notifications of the occurrence of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, were received from Medical Practitioners whilst 60 cases of non-notifiable infectious disease were brought to my notice by the School Teachers.

Each case of notifiable infectious disease is visited by a Sanitary Officer as soon as possible after the receipt of the notification.

Scarlet Fever.

Nineteen cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. Seven of these were transferred to Hospital because of the impossibility of isolation at home. No return cases were discovered, and no action has been necessary to shorten the stay of uncomplicated cases in Hospital. No deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

No use has been made of the Dick Test or of artificial immunization against scarlet fever.

Diphtheria.

Seven cases of diphtheria occurred during the year. Six of these cases were removed to hospital.

For the early treatment of diphtheria a supply of antitoxin is kept at the Health Office, and also at the Police Station, from where it is obtainable by medical practitioners free on request.

Immunization Against Diphtheria.

No cases were immunized against diphtheria during 1939.

Pneumonia.

Sixteen cases of acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia were notified during the year and the number of deaths from all forms of this disease was seven.

Erysipelas.

One case of erysipelas was notified during 1939. There was no deaths from this condition.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred during 1939, further details of which are given in Section B of this report.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Cases of non-notifiable infectious disease, occurring amongst school population are notified to the Medical Officer of Health by School teachers. During 1939, sixty such notifications were received, these being :-

Measles	2
Chickenpox	2
Whooping-cough	32
Mumps	24
	<hr/>
Total	60
	<hr/>

Influenza.

There was no extensive epidemic of influenza during 1939. Six deaths were classified as being due to this disease.

Infectious Disease in Schools.

All cases of infectious disease, whether notifiable or non-notifiable, occurring amongst school children are reported by school teachers. All such cases and their contacts are excluded from school at the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, who also acts as School Medical Officer.

At no time during 1939 was it found necessary to close a school, or a department of a school, on account of an infectious disease.

Hospital Treatment.

By an arrangement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, accommodation is available at the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, for cases of smallpox and other notifiable infectious diseases. A retaining fee is paid to the Board, and patients are not required to contribute to the cost of treatment. Beds are available as required, and the accommodation has been sufficient to meet our requirements.

A case is admitted to the hospital on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health where necessary in the case of severe illness or the absence of facilities for isolation.

Table VIII shows the number of cases of infectious disease treated in hospital during 1939.

TABLE VIII.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE TREATED IN
HOSPITAL DURING 1939.

Cases	Total	Disease				
		Pneu- monia	Scarlet fever	Ophth. Neona- torum	Puer- peral Pyrex.	Diph- theria
Admitted during the year ...	16	1	7	1	1	6
Discharged during the year ...	16	1	7	1	1	6
Died in Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations.

The following Table shows the results of the bacteriological examinations made during 1939.

TABLE IX.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1939

Particulars of Examination	Positive	Negative
Diphtheria (Swabs)	3	27
Typhoid (Faeces)	—	1
Haemolytic Streptococci	—	1
Others	1	—
T.B. (Sputum)	9	71
<i>(undertaken by the Lancs.C.C.)</i>		
Totals	13	100

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1927.

No primary or re-vaccinations were performed during the year by the Medical Officer of Health.

Supply of Vaccines or Sera.

Prophylactic toxoid for the immunization of children against diphtheria, is supplied free to Medical Practitioners under certain conditions, as described in previous reports.

Anti-diphtheritic serum is also supplied free to medical practitioners.

Cancer, Malignant Disease.

Twenty-seven deaths occurred during the year, 13 males and 14 females.

Tuberculosis.

Each case of tuberculosis is visited by a Tuberculosis Nurse of the Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary as soon as practicable after receipt of notification. 53 cases were visited during 1939, the number of visits paid being 195. Where desirable, sanatorium or hospital treatment is arranged for after consultation between the Tuberculosis Officer and the Medical Practitioner concerned. Cases are followed up wherever possible.

At the beginning of the year there were 44 cases of Tuberculosis on the register; 22 cases were added and 13 cases were taken off the register, leaving a total of 53 cases at the end of the year.

It has not been necessary to take action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Animals and Insect Pests.

In a few cases, advice has been given and poisons supplied for the suppression of rats and cockroaches.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

No provision is made for the cleansing of verminous persons. Formalin lamps are used for the disinfecting of rooms, whilst bedding and clothing are disinfected by passing them through a steam disinfecter.

Table X. shows particulars of disinfection during 1939.

TABLE X.
DISINFECTION DURING 1939.

Disease etc	Number of Rooms	Number of Articles
Scarlet Fever ...	12	121
Tuberculosis ...	6	59
Diphtheria ...	5	72
Scabies ...	2	68
Vermin, etc. ...	5	65
Total ...	30	385

(Number of houses—27).

In addition to the above, a number of library books has been fumigated, and a quantity of bedding and other articles destroyed.

Evacuation.

Haslingden was a reception area for evacuees from Salford. The main evacuation took place on September 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1939. On several dates later small numbers of children were also received. The numbers which came in the initial evacuation were 1,000 school children, 647 mothers and children under 5 years of age, and 53 helpers and teachers.

At the station all were given a rapid examination by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by a local doctor, and any defects found noted. Minor defects were referred to the Clinic and temporary treatment given. Cases requiring further medical care were referred to General Practitioners for treatment. On the following day all defects noted were followed up and appropriate steps taken. The

first stages of evacuation here were greatly assisted by the beautiful weather which prevailed.

The Health and School Medical Services of the Borough were placed at the disposal of the evacuees and no differentiation was made between the Salford and Haslingden children.

The main difficulties which arose were in connection with dirty heads, scabies and bed wetting.

The nutritional state of the children on arrival appeared to be below that of the Haslingden children. Most of the children who remained by the end of the year appeared to have greatly improved in health during their stay.

On the initial evacuation there was little difficulty in obtaining billets for children. Within a week the return of the evacuees commenced and at the end of the year there were left 306 unaccompanied children, 31 mothers and children under five years of age, and 3 teachers and helpers.

Particulars of work amongst the Salford children are given in the Report of the School Medical Officer.

